



*Two Virtues ~ An Ash Wednesday Sermon  
Genesis 3:17-19*

*Ash Wednesday, February 26th, 2020  
First Federated Church of Peoria, Illinois  
The Rev. Forrest Krummel, Jr.*

*Text: For you are dust and unto dust you shall return. (3:19b, NKJV)*

In his book *The Road to Character* David Brooks wrote that there are two kinds of virtues in life; Résumé Virtues and Eulogy Virtues.

Résumé Virtues are those virtues that are valued in the workplace. They are high test scores, if you are a student or professional achievements. They virtues result in being on the honor roll or a job title, a larger paycheck or prestigious job title. Résumé Virtues appear in an obituary, but they do not really define a person's character.

I remember doing the funeral for a well-known political figure. As I met with the family they were strangely evasive when I asked them about the man. Finally the wife spoke up. "I know that you have to say nice things about him. He was well known and respected in the community. But he was not a nice man at home." Enough said. What a sad commentary.

*Success and fame are good up to a point. But as Jesus once asked, "What does it profit a person to gain the whole world and lose their soul (Matthew 16:26 & Mark 8:36).*

Eulogy Virtues, on the other hand, are virtues of character. They are things like humility, kindness, and bravery. While Brooks doesn't say explicitly, they parallel the spiritual virtues of unconditional love - love with no strings attached, a love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things; the virtues of joy, peace that passes human understanding, patience, generosity, gentleness, self-control, and kindness. At the core of our being, Brooks writes, we know that what matters most in life are the Eulogy virtues.

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Every day we are writing a page in our legacy. Lent is a time of self-reflection, examination, and prayer. As we journey into Lent together let us make this a holy Lent.

To God be the glory. Amen.